



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
MICHIGAN FIRE FIGHTERS TRAINING COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
WORK SESSION – RULES

Tuesday, August. 11th, 2020
9:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/99161602018?pwd=U2hWNXg5Nk1ObER0RDRrdmZxaTNIQT09>

Password: **4pTzCF**

Phone: (216) 706-7075
Or (866) 390-1828 (US Toll Free)
Conference code: 394127

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chad Tackett, Chairperson, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Brian Blomstrom, Vice Chair, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
Alan Styles, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
Lynnae White, Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
Greg Janik, Michigan Municipal League
Jacob Steichen, Nominee of the State Fire Marshal
Aileen Pettinger, Michigan Professional Firefighters Union
Kevin Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal, Ex-officio Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Terrance Blackmer, Michigan State Firemen's Association

BUREAU OF FIRE SERVICES STAFF PRESENT:

Andrea Keown, Department Technician, Fire Fighter Training Division/Recording Secretary
Hollie Metts, Assistant to the State Fire Marshal (virtual meeting moderator)
Dan Hammerberg, Region 1 Coordinator, Fire Fighter training Division

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Liz Arasim, Regulatory Affairs Officer, Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs	John LeRoy, Bloomfield Twp. Fire Department
Adam Carroll, Hartland Deerfield Fire Department	Josh Mosher, Midland Fire Department
Andy Pless, Howell Fire Department	Kurt Corradi, Bay City Fire Department
Aric Massingill, Adrian Fire Department	Liam Carroll, Schoolcraft College RTC
Brian Michelli, Fruitport Twp. Fire Department	Mark Cleveland, Egelston Twp. Fire Department
Christopher Van Loo, Saginaw Fire Department	Michael Yanz, NIESA
Dave Glotzbach, Muskegon Twp. Fire Department	Mike Burke, Elba Twp. Fire Department
David Mc Inally, Van Buren Dept. Of Public Safety	Mike Keefe, Allendale Fire Department
David Pelton, Walker Fire Department	Mike Koehler, Troy Fire Department
Joseph Grutza, Retired	Robert Smith, Dowagiac Fire Department
Jack White, Shelby-Benona Fire Department	Scott Damon, Cambridge Twp Fire Department
Jim Peterson, Macomb Twp. Fire Department	Thea Dornbush, Muskegon Twp. Fire Department
Jim Fisher, Gerrish Twp. Fire Department	

I. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Before **Chairperson Tackett** called the special meeting to order, Andrea Keown from the Bureau of Fire Services, Fire Fighting Training Division read the following:

"I have just a brief house-keeping announcement to make. Due to logistical and storage issues, the Board will no longer be recording these remote meetings. However, if you would like to record the meeting using the Zoom software, please just let us know using the chat function, and we will turn that feature on for you. Unfortunately, due to limitations with the software, we are not able to set this up for everyone automatically. It needs to be done manually for each person. Yet please also note that you are free to continue to record these meetings yourself by any other means you wish. Nothing has changed in that regard. There are no recording restrictions for these meetings. But if you choose to use the Zoom software we are providing for you, again, unfortunately, we must manually turn that feature on for you. We apologize for the inconvenience."

Chairperson Tackett then announced a roll call vote will be done for any motion put forth to council during this meeting and read the following introduction to everyone in the virtual meeting:

"In order to minimize disruptions, until the time designated by the Council for public comment, members of the public will be muted to the Council and other attendees and participants. During the time designated by the Council for public comment, members of public will no longer be muted and may participate and provide their comments by orderly speaking using the microphone on their phone. All existing Council rules regarding public comment (including rules designed to minimize disruptions and allow for full public participation) still apply."

All quorum rules still apply. In the event of a disconnection caused by the meeting host, the Council will be considered to be in recess. Every effort will be made to reestablish a publicly accessible connection. If the host is unable to do so within a period of 30 minutes from the time of the disconnection, the Council will adjourn and not address any new business until its next meeting. Any decisions made prior to the disconnection will be binding. The Council will not recess or adjourn due to technical or other issues experienced by individual members of the public that render them unable to attend or participate in the meeting."

Chairperson Tackett called the special meeting session to order at 9:03 A.M. Roll call was taken

Chairperson Tackett – present
Councilperson Blomstrom – present
Councilperson Styles – present
Councilperson White – present
Councilperson Blackmer – absent
Councilperson Janik – present
Councilperson Steichen – present
Councilperson Pettinger – present
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – present

A quorum was determined present.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

20-08-01

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Janik** and seconded by **Councilperson Pettinger** to approve the August 11th, 2020 special meeting agenda, as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes
Councilperson Blomstrom – yes

Councilperson Styles – yes
Councilperson White –yes
Councilperson Blackmer – absent
Councilperson Janik– yes
Councilperson Steichen – yes
Councilperson Pettinger – yes
Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

Eight votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

III. COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairperson Steichen: Received communication from Peninsula Township concerning language in the Fire Inspector classification in the draft rules.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier: Received the letter from the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs on August 4th, 2020.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Fire Fighter Training Council General Rules Update:** A revised draft of the Fire Fighter Training Council General Rules (dated July 9th, 2020) was provided to the council in their meeting packets and projected for all attendees to view during the work session. FFTD Department Technician, Andrea Keown made changes to the working draft document per the discussion. The meeting resumed with council working through the draft document making changes to grammar and adding clarifying language to the fire inspector and fire investigator classifications.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Andy Pless, Howell Fire Department: Voiced that he feels the new rules regarding reciprocity are not all inclusive, making it difficult for departments and agencies to hire qualified candidates.

Mark Cleveland, Egelston Twp. Fire Department: Mentioned the letter from the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC) was emailed to the council via their Michigan.gov email accounts on August 5th, 2020.

Adam Carroll, Hartland Deerfield Fire Department: Stated he feels that the feedback from council regarding the MAFC letter has been lacking. The topics covered in the letter have been the same as the original letter in March. The issues are put in black and white and have the risk of unintended consequences, not the least of which is if we have set a number of hours on something. The opposite side of the coin is that is someone seeing the set number and only doing that amount of hours. The same goes for mandatory in class attendance; we end up painting ourselves in to a corner where we don't have the ability to accommodate for different learning styles that would ultimately result in a successful firefighter in the state.

VI. COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilperson Blomstrom: Appreciates that we are getting correspondence. We have made a lot of headway with what that chiefs have sent us. In the very end, we have a good, concise document that meets the idea of what the fire service needs. Looks forward to moving on with the rules and voting it through in the council meeting this afternoon.

Councilperson Styles: Flabbergasted that this comes out to be a "chiefs" thing. I have spoken to numerous people on other members boards that have gotten zero communication from their representatives. So maybe we're the only ones writing letters because we're communicating with our boards. I am representing 400 chiefs and we came to that (the letter) as a consensus. Is the document perfect? No, but we understand that, and we can also look at it from the grand scheme.

Councilperson White: Thanked everyone involved and hanging with council during this process. Happy with the rules and looking forward to the rules moving forward.

Councilperson Janik: Tremendous collaborative effort between the council, organizations, chiefs

association, we have achieved so many things and narrowed down the list, however there are some discrepancies that can be worked out. I am listening to the intent of the original authors and to continue on that course.

Councilperson Steichen: Appreciates the feedback and attendance from all the chiefs. We've had a nine patchwork of all the fire industry at some of these meetings. I've listened to every chiefs comment, read every email and taken it all in to consideration through the last 2 years of building what I feel this document should look like and I'm content, so thank you, thank everyone for their time and effort.

Councilperson Pettinger: Apologized to chiefs, did not realize the letter was stacked with a different email. She did receive it. Feels like we have addressed a lot of the issues in some form or manner. Has spoken with her organization regarding the rules, they brought up issues that were addressed throughout the process.

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier: Appreciates what Councilperson Janik shared regarding intent of original authors. Has spoken to many of the original authors that have conveyed that they are good with where the rules are at, while some others are not. At the end we tried to account for ultimately what is going to work for all 83 counties for the whole fire service regardless of any groups that anyone belongs to. Thanks to the council for all their hard work during the 43 work sessions. Thank you to the folks who continue to reach out and participate in public comment.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT:**

20-08-02

A **MOTION** was made by **Councilperson Steichen** and seconded by **Councilperson Blomstrom** to adjourn the special meeting/work session.

A roll call vote was taken.

Chairperson Tackett – yes

Councilperson Blomstrom – yes

Councilperson Styles – yes

Councilperson White –yes

Councilperson Blackmer – absent

Councilperson Janik– yes

Councilperson Steichen – yes

Councilperson Pettinger – yes

Fire Marshal Sehlmeier – yes

Eight votes yes. **MOTION CARRIED.** The meeting adjourned at 12:16 PM.

APPROVED:

Chairperson Tackett

Councilmember